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## **Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

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**Annual reports on technical reviews**

**Technical review on greenhouse gas inventories and other information  
reported by Parties included in Annex I, as defined in Article 1,  
paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol**

## **Technical review of greenhouse gas inventories and other information reported by Parties included in Annex I, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol**

### **Report by the secretariat**

#### *Summary*

This document provides information on the status of submission and review of the annual information required under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including greenhouse gas inventories and supplementary information, and review activities during the 2018 and 2019 review cycles, including the review of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. It also provides information on review training activities for experts participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol. Finally, it reports on the information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol.

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

CMP	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
CR	centralized review
ERT	expert review team
GHG	greenhouse gas
ICR	in-country review
KP-LULUCF activities	activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol
LR	lead reviewer
LULUCF	land use, land-use change and forestry
NA	not applicable
Party included in Annex I	Party included in Annex I under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol
QELRC	quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Mandate**

1. The CMP stated that the secretariat is to prepare an annual report to the SBSTA on the composition of the ERTs participating in the review of the information submitted under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including the selection of experts for the review teams and the LRs.<sup>1, 2</sup> The CMP also stated that the LRs of GHG inventory reviews collectively are to prepare an annual report to the SBSTA with suggestions on how to improve the review process.<sup>3</sup>
2. CMP 11 requested the secretariat to include in its report information on the training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol, in particular information on examination procedures and the selection of trainees and instructors, in order for Parties to assess the effectiveness of the programme.<sup>4</sup>
3. Finally, the CMP stated that the secretariat is to annually compile information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol.<sup>5</sup>

### **B. Scope of the report**

4. This document provides information on:
  - (a) The status of submission of the annual information required from Parties included in Annex I and the review of that information, including the GHG inventories of those Parties; the review upon expiration of the additional period for fulfilling commitments of Parties included in Annex I for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol; and the review of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (see chap. II below);<sup>6</sup>
  - (b) The selection of experts and LRs for the review process and their participation in this process (see chap. III below);
  - (c) The annual report to the SBSTA prepared by the LRs in accordance with decision 22/CMP.1 in conjunction with decision 4/CMP.11, including their conclusions and recommendations on how to improve the review process (see chap. IV below);
  - (d) The training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol (see chap. V below);
  - (e) The minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol, as required by decision 15/CMP.1 (see chap. VI below).
5. In accordance with the “Guidelines for review under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol”, the review under the Kyoto Protocol encompasses the existing review under the Convention. The lessons learned and problems encountered in the review process under the Convention and under the Kyoto Protocol have many common elements. This document focuses on the elements of the review process that are specific to the Kyoto Protocol and should be read in conjunction with the annual report on the technical review of GHG inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 22/CMP.1, annex, para. 35.

<sup>2</sup> Information on the composition of the ERTs participating in the review of the information submitted under Article 7, para. 2, of the Kyoto Protocol can be found in document FCCC/SBSTA/2019/INF.4, chap. II.B.2.

<sup>3</sup> Decision 22/CMP.1, annex, para. 40(a).

<sup>4</sup> Decision 5/CMP.11, para. 3.

<sup>5</sup> Decision 15/CMP.1, annex, para. 26.

<sup>6</sup> At the time of publication of this report, the Doha Amendment had not yet entered into force.

<sup>7</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2019/INF.4.

## C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

6. The SBSTA will be invited to take note of this report.

## II. Submission and review of information from Parties included in Annex I

### A. Annual submissions for 2019

7. The annual inventory submission under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol comprises the national inventory report and the common reporting format tables. In addition, Parties included in Annex I must submit supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol. The due date of the annual submission is 15 April. Submissions made by Parties after the due date can delay the review process, making the preparation of the review tools to support the review process more difficult, and the GHG inventory data of such Parties may not be included in the reports prepared by the secretariat.

8. As at 31 October 2019, the secretariat had received 42 submissions from Parties included in Annex I (see table 1). Most of these submissions contain tables with accounting units prepared in the standard electronic format, which are part of the supplementary information under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol: 26 Parties submitted tables in this format for the first commitment period and 39 Parties for the second commitment period.

9. Status reports for the 24 submissions subject to individual review were prepared and published on the UNFCCC website<sup>8</sup> and forwarded to the Compliance Committee. The secretariat coordinated individual reviews of only 22 of the submissions referred to in paragraph 8 above owing to there being insufficient resources from the core budget of the secretariat to organize the 2019 review cycle fully in accordance with relevant mandates, while the available support in terms of supplementary funding, as at 30 April 2019 (the latest date for the start of preparations), was not at a level to make up for the lack of resources in the core budget.<sup>9</sup> Six of the individual reviews were organized as ICRs (between 2 September and 12 October 2019), 12 as five CRs<sup>10</sup> (in Bonn between 2 September and 12 October 2019) and 4 as two desk reviews (between 16 and 28 September 2019). The reports on these reviews are in preparation.

Table 1

**Submission of the annual information required under the Kyoto Protocol in 2019**

Party	Original submission dates			
	National inventory report	Common reporting format tables	Standard electronic format for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol	Standard electronic format for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol
Australia	24 May 2019	24 May 2019	24 May 2019	24 May 2019
Austria	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019
Belarus	12 April 2019 <sup>a</sup>	12 April 2019 <sup>a</sup>	—	—

<sup>8</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/greenhouse-gas-inventories-annex-i-parties/national-inventory-submissions-2019>.

<sup>9</sup> For more information about the financial circumstances, see document FCCC/SBSTA/2019/INF.4, annex, paras. 6 and 7.

<sup>10</sup> The 2019 GHG inventory submissions of Belarus, Canada and the United States of America were also reviewed in a CR, but Belarus, Canada and the United States are not Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

<i>Party</i>	<i>Original submission dates</i>			
	<i>National inventory report</i>	<i>Common reporting format tables</i>	<i>Standard electronic format for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol</i>	<i>Standard electronic format for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol</i>
Belgium	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019
Bulgaria	12 April 2019	15 April 2019	12 April 2019	12 April 2019
Croatia	15 April 2019	11 April 2019	11 April 2019	11 April 2019
Cyprus	16 April 2019	16 April 2019	–	29 March 2019
Czechia	12 April 2019	12 April 2019	–	12 April 2019
Denmark	12 April 2019	12 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019
Estonia	11 April 2019	12 April 2019	11 April 2019	11 April 2019
European Union	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	–	12 April 2019
Finland	10 April 2019	10 April 2019	29 March 2019	29 March 2019
France	2 April 2019	2 April 2019	4 April 2019	4 April 2019
Germany	15 April 2019	12 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019
Greece	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	–	15 April 2019
Hungary	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019
Iceland	14 April 2019	14 April 2019	–	11 April 2019
Ireland	10 April 2019	10 April 2019	9 April 2019	9 April 2019
Italy	15 April 2019	5 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019
Japan	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019
Kazakhstan	19 July 2019	15 April 2019	–	–
Latvia	12 April 2019	12 April 2019	12 April 2019	12 April 2019
Liechtenstein	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019
Lithuania	16 April 2019	12 April 2019	–	12 April 2019
Luxembourg	15 April 2019	4 April 2019	4 April 2019	4 April 2019
Malta	17 April 2019	10 May 2019	–	12 April 2019
Monaco	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	27 March 2019	27 March 2019
Netherlands	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	–	15 April 2019
New Zealand	11 April 2019	10 April 2019	10 April 2019	10 April 2019
Norway	12 April 2019	12 April 2019	12 April 2019	30 April 2019
Poland	9 April 2019	9 April 2019	9 April 2019	9 April 2019
Portugal	2 April 2019	2 April 2019	2 April 2019	2 April 2019
Romania	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	–	15 April 2019
Russian Federation	14 April 2019	13 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019

<i>Party</i>	<i>Original submission dates</i>			
	<i>National inventory report</i>	<i>Common reporting format tables</i>	<i>Standard electronic format for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol</i>	<i>Standard electronic format for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol</i>
Slovakia	11 April 2019	11 April 2019	11 April 2019	11 April 2019
Slovenia	15 April 2019	10 April 2019	–	10 April 2010
Spain	2 April 2019	2 April 2019	2 April 2019	2 April 2019
Sweden	12 April 2019	12 April 2019	–	12 April 2019
Switzerland	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	15 April 2019
Turkey <sup>b</sup>	13 April 2019 <sup>a</sup>	13 April 2019 <sup>a</sup>	–	–
Ukraine	16 May 2019	16 May 2019	–	16 May 2019
United Kingdom	15 April 2019	15 April 2019	–	15 April 2019

<sup>a</sup> The submission was made under the Convention only.

<sup>b</sup> Although Turkey is considered to be a Party included in Annex I for the purposes of the Kyoto Protocol, in the absence of commitments under Article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period, its reporting obligations under Article 7, para. 1, of the Kyoto Protocol do not appear to be triggered in relation to that period.

## B. Review of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount for the second commitment period

10. CMP 8 decided that each Party with a QELRC inscribed in the third column of Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol, as contained in annex I to decision 1/CMP.8 (the Doha Amendment), was to submit to the secretariat by 15 April 2015 a report to facilitate the calculation of its assigned amount pursuant to Article 3, paragraphs 7 bis, 8 and 8 bis, of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period and to demonstrate its capacity to account for its emissions and assigned amount.<sup>11</sup>

11. As at 21 September 2016, the secretariat had received 36 of the reports referred to in paragraph 10 above. The secretariat organized the reviews of these reports in conjunction with the reviews of the 2016 submissions, as requested by the CMP.<sup>12</sup> These reviews took place in the third quarter of 2016. The published review reports are available on the UNFCCC website.<sup>13</sup> See table 2 for the dates of the reviews and of publication of the review reports (status as at 31 October 2019).

12. The secretariat received the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amount of Kazakhstan and Monaco (submitted on 4 July 2017 and 4 August 2017, respectively). The secretariat organized the reviews of these reports in conjunction with the reviews of the 2017 annual submissions. The review report for Monaco was published on 23 March 2018 and the report for Kazakhstan was published on 18 February 2019. As at 31 October 2019, Belarus had not submitted its report to facilitate the calculation of its assigned amount.

<sup>11</sup> Decision 2/CMP.8, para. 2.

<sup>12</sup> Decision 10/CMP.11, para. 2.

<sup>13</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-kyoto-protocol/second-commitment-period/initial-reports>.

Table 2

**Review of the reports to facilitate the calculation of the assigned amounts for the second commitment period and to demonstrate the capacity to account for emissions and assigned amounts**

<i>Party</i>	<i>Review week dates (review type)</i>	<i>Review report publication date</i>
Australia	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	27 April 2017
Austria	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	31 May 2017
Belarus <sup>a</sup>	Not subject to review <sup>a</sup>	NA
Belgium	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	20 June 2017
Bulgaria	10–15 October 2016 (ICR)	21 June 2017
Croatia	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	30 March 2017
Cyprus	12–17 September 2016 (ICR)	20 October 2017
Czechia	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	31 August 2017
Denmark	26 September to 1 October 2016 (ICR)	9 August 2017
Estonia	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	22 March 2017
European Union	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	14 May 2018
Finland	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	16 March 2017
France	19–24 September 2016 (ICR)	26 July 2017
Germany	19–24 September 2016 (ICR)	13 April 2017
Greece	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	31 August 2017
Hungary	19–24 September 2016 (ICR)	10 March 2017
Iceland	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	30 March 2017
Ireland	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	20 July 2017
Italy	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	1 June 2017
Japan <sup>b</sup>	NA	NA
Kazakhstan	18–23 September 2017 (ICR)	18 February 2019
Latvia	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	7 March 2017
Liechtenstein	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	21 September 2017
Lithuania	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	6 March 2017
Luxembourg	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	30 August 2017
Malta	10–15 October 2016 (ICR)	21 July 2017
Monaco	25–30 September 2017 (CR)	23 March 2018
Netherlands	19–24 September 2016 (CR)	23 June 2017
New Zealand <sup>b</sup>	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	10 August 2017
Norway	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	28 March 2017
Poland	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	21 June 2017
Portugal	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	5 September 2017
Romania	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	21 June 2017
Russian Federation <sup>b</sup>	NA	NA
Slovakia	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	3 March 2017
Slovenia	26 September to 1 October 2016 (CR)	22 August 2017
Spain	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	14 July 2017
Sweden	29 August to 3 September 2016 (CR)	6 April 2017
Switzerland	5–10 September 2016 (ICR)	20 April 2017
Turkey <sup>b</sup>	NA	NA



<i>Party</i>	<i>Review week dates (review type)</i>	<i>Review report publication date</i>
Ukraine	5–10 September 2016 (CR)	20 April 2017
United Kingdom	12–17 September 2016 (CR)	4 December 2017

<sup>a</sup> As at 31 October 2019, Belarus had not submitted its report to facilitate the calculation of its assigned amount pursuant to Article 3, paras. 7 bis, 8 and 8 bis, of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period and to demonstrate its capacity to account for its emissions and assigned amount.

<sup>b</sup> Japan, New Zealand and the Russian Federation are Parties included in Annex I that had a QELRC for the first commitment period but do not have a QELRC for the second commitment period. New Zealand submitted a report to facilitate the calculation of its emission budget for the period 2013 to 2020. Turkey does not have a QELRC for the first or the second commitment period.

### III. Expert review teams and lead reviewers

13. The information provided in the annual submissions under Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol, including the GHG inventories, is examined by international teams of experts who are selected by the secretariat from those nominated by Parties to the UNFCCC roster of experts. Invitations to experts to participate in the review are copied to the national focal point. Only experts who have taken the training courses under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and who have passed the corresponding examinations can participate in the reviews of annual submissions.<sup>14</sup>

14. The annual report on the technical review of GHG inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention provides more information on the number and nominating Party of experts participating in the reviews in 2019, the number of ERTs and experience in organizing the reviews.<sup>15</sup>

### IV. Annual report of inventory lead reviewers

15. The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of GHG inventory LRs was held in Bonn on 13 and 14 March 2019. Of the 52 experts from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention that were invited, 36 attended the meeting. In the case of experts from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, 82 were invited and 38 attended. In addition, 14 members of the Bureau of the Compliance Committee, two representatives of the International Energy Agency and one representative of the European Commission attended the meeting as observers. The secretariat held a refresher seminar for LRs and experienced reviewers on the morning of 13 March 2019, before the LRs meeting, which was attended by 73 experts (36 from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention and 37 from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention). The refresher seminar focused on the supporting training material for experts of sectors other than LULUCF on reviewing accounting information on KP-LULUCF activities, the review of the quality assurance/quality control and verification systems of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, and the *Handbook for the Review of National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*.<sup>16</sup>

16. In accordance with decisions 13/CP.20, 22/CMP.1 and 24/CMP.1, the meeting referred to in paragraph 15 above facilitated the LRs' task of ensuring the consistency of reviews across Parties and provided conclusions and recommendations on how to improve the quality and efficiency of such reviews. Such conclusions and recommendations are reported to the SBSTA in accordance with the annexes to decisions 13/CP.20 and 22/CMP.1.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>14</sup> For more information on the training of review experts, see chap. V below.

<sup>15</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2019/INF.4, paras. 13–23 and table 3.

<sup>16</sup> 2018 draft available at [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ReviewHandbook%20GHG%20Inventories%202018\\_clean\\_0.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ReviewHandbook%20GHG%20Inventories%202018_clean_0.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> See the annex to document FCCC/SBSTA/2019/INF.4 for the conclusions and recommendations from the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of GHG inventory LRs. These conclusions and recommendations are also

## **V. Training of experts**

### **A. Training programme for members of expert review teams participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol**

17. Since 2006, as required by decision 24/CMP.1 and decision 8/CMP.5, the secretariat has been implementing the updated training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol with the aim of training members of ERTs for the review of information submitted under Article 7 of the Kyoto Protocol. All training courses and final examinations are offered online, in some cases with the support of an instructor, subject to the availability of resources.

18. In 2016, as requested by decision 5/CMP.11, the updated training programme for members of ERTs participating in annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol was launched in order to meet the needs for the reviews in the second commitment period. All courses – including on national systems, application of adjustments, modalities for the accounting of assigned amounts under Article 7, paragraph 4, of the Kyoto Protocol, review of national registries and information on assigned amounts, and review of KP-LULUCF activities – have been updated to meet the reporting requirements for Parties in the initial and subsequent years of the second commitment period. The format of the courses and the examinations remains the same as for the training courses held during the first commitment period.

19. In order to ensure ERTs have the skills and knowledge to meet the requirements in the second commitment period, decision 5/CMP.11 requires some examinations to be mandatory not only for new experts, but also for the reviewers who experienced the reviews during the first commitment period in order for them to be able to take on the roles of LRs, generalists and KP-LULUCF activities reviewers. Experienced experts who are to take on the role of LR for the first time must pass the examinations for the updated courses on national systems, application of adjustments, review of national registries and information on assigned amounts and review of KP-LULUCF activities; experienced sectoral experts who are to take on the role of generalist for the first time must pass the examination for the updated course on national registries; and all LULUCF experts and new LRs must pass the examinations for the updated courses on the review of KP-LULUCF activities. Experienced experts have been invited to take part in the updated training programme.

### **B. Implementation of the training programme**

20. In 2019, for the courses under the training programme referred to in paragraphs 18 and 19 above, 22 experts, including 14 new reviewers, took and passed one or more examinations. As a result, 11 new experts, including 4 LULUCF experts and 3 generalists, became eligible to participate in the reviews of the second commitment period. Regarding experienced experts, three experts became eligible to take on the role of LR by passing the examination for the course on the review of KP-LULUCF activities for non-LULUCF experts, and two became eligible to act as a generalist by passing the examination for the course on national registries.

21. The annex to decision 5/CMP.11 states that new LRs are required to pass the examinations for the courses on the review of KP-LULUCF activities and the review of national registries and information on assigned amounts owing to the complexities of these subject areas and the need for experts to have fundamental technical knowledge of them. This provision poses a challenge for experienced experts who are willing to take on the role of LRs. These experts are encouraged to study the online courses in the subject areas of their expertise and pass the corresponding examinations in order to support the process for the annual reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol as LRs.

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available at <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/greenhouse-gas-inventories-annex-i-parties/review-process>.

## **VI. Compilation of information submitted by Parties on the minimization of adverse impacts in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol**

22. The CMP stated that the secretariat is to compile the supplementary information submitted annually by Parties relating to how they are striving, under Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol, to implement their commitments mentioned in Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol in such a way as to minimize adverse social, environmental and economic impacts on developing country Parties, particularly those identified in Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention, and information on any changes that have occurred compared with the information reported in their previous annual submissions.<sup>18</sup>

23. The compilation is also to include information on how Parties included in Annex I that are also included in Annex II to the Convention and other Parties included in Annex I that are in a position to do so give priority in implementing their commitments under Article 3, paragraph 14, to the actions referred to in decision 15/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 24, on the basis of relevant methodologies referred to in decision 31/CMP.1, paragraph 11.

24. The compilation based on the annual submissions received for 2019 is in preparation.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Decision 15/CMP.1, annex, para. 26.

<sup>19</sup> The previous compilation, based on the annual submissions for 2018, is contained in document FCCC/WEB/ART314/2018.